

Deaths

There were 23,720 resident deaths recorded for Kansas in 2004, a decrease of 2.9 percent from the 2003 total of 24,417. ([Table 31](#))

Republic, Elk and Comanche counties had the highest five-year (2000-2004) county death rates of 18.0, 17.9, and 17.3 deaths per 1,000 population respectively. Riley, Finney, and Douglas counties had the lowest five-year death rates of 5.0, 5.2, and 5.3 deaths per 1,000 population respectively. ([Table 31](#), [Figure 26](#))

Belleville, Eureka, and Fredonia had the highest five-year city death rates (2000-2004) of 27.9, 21.9, and 19.1 respectively. Olathe, Lawrence, and Shawnee experienced the lowest five-year city death rates of 4.6, 4.8, and 5.2 respectively. ([Table 32](#))

The Kansas death rate in 2004 was 8.7 deaths per 1,000 population, which was 7.4 percent higher than the estimated U.S. rate of 8.1 deaths per 1,000 population. ([Figure 27](#))

Of all stillbirths in 2004, 67.7 percent were attributed to conditions originating in the perinatal period, 23.1 percent were attributed to symptoms, signs and abnormal findings and 8.6 percent to congenital anomalies. ([Table 33](#))

Examining the components that constitute perinatal period III mortality, the numbers of stillbirths and hebdomadal deaths declined 45.5 percent and 52.6 percent respectively from 1975 to 2004. Caution should be used in interpreting these decreases due to the relatively small number of occurrences. In 2004, there were 330 perinatal period III deaths, representing a death rate of 8.3 deaths per 1,000 live births plus stillbirths. This rate has decreased 56.1 percent from the 1975 rate of 18.9. ([Tables 34 and 35](#), [Figure 28](#))

A total of 284 infant deaths occurred to Kansas residents in 2004. The overall infant death rate for 2004 was 7.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. For comparison, the 2004 rate (7.2) represents a decrease of 48.2 percent from the rate of 13.9 in 1975. The white infant death rate was 6.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2004, a decrease of 50.8 percent from the rate of 13.2 in 1975. The black infant death rate in 2004 was 16.7, a decrease of 29.8 percent from the rate of 23.8 in 1975. ([Figure 29](#), [Tables 36 and 37](#))

During the five-year period, 2000-2004, the infant death rate for Kansas was 7.0. Graham county had the highest infant death rate (27.3) during this time period. Of those counties reporting infant deaths, Nemaha county had the lowest rate (1.5). Sixteen counties had no infant deaths. ([Table 37](#))

Of all infant deaths in 2004, 45.4 percent were attributed to conditions originating in the perinatal period, 21.8 percent were attributed to congenital anomalies, 14.8 percent to sudden infant death syndrome and 18.0 percent to all other causes. ([Table 38](#))

Deaths (Cont.)

For each year from 1991 to 2004 there were five or fewer maternal deaths among Kansas residents. However, in 2003, for the first time in recorded history, there were no maternal deaths to Kansas residents. ([Figure 31](#))

The Kansas age-adjusted death rate (see Technical Notes pg. 144) per 1,000 standard U.S. 2000 population was consistently below that of the U.S. from 1995-2003. ([Table 41](#), [Figure 32](#))

The state's 2004 age-adjusted death rate for males (9.2) was 35.3 percent higher than the rate of 6.8 for females. ([Table 41](#))

The average age at death of Kansas residents in 2004 was 74.0 years, a 2.6 percent increase from the average age at death of 72.1 years in 1985. ([Table 42](#))

The average age at death for the white population in 2004 was 74.7 years, eleven years older than that of the black population, whose average age at death was 63.7 years. ([Table 43](#))

The two leading causes of death in Kansas in 2004, heart disease and malignant neoplasms, had average ages at death of 78.5 and 71.9 years respectively. Atherosclerosis, with an average age at death of 86.0 years, had the highest average age at death of any of the leading causes of death. ([Table 46](#))

The average age at death for male unintentional injury victims for 1995 and 2004 was 48.0 and 48.2 respectively, while for females the average age was 63.3 and 59.3 years respectively. For this time period, the average age at death decreased for female unintentional injury victims 6.3 percent while for male unintentional injury victims it increased 0.4 percent. ([Table 46](#))

The cause-specific death rate for Alzheimer's Disease in Kansas was 28.0 deaths per 100,000 population in 2004. The rate for females (41.0) was more than twice as high as the rate for males (14.9). ([Table 46](#))

The cancer death rate for 2004 was 193.1 deaths per 100,000 population, 6.3 percent lower than the rate of 206.1 in 1995. ([Tables 46 and 47](#))

In 2004, the unintentional injury death rate was 42.3 deaths per 100,000 population, 11.6 percent higher than the rate of 37.9 in 1995. ([Tables 46 and 47](#))

The age-adjusted death rate for the leading cause of death, heart disease, was 195.6, and for cancer, the second leading cause of death, the age-adjusted death rate was 182.1 per 100,000 standard U.S. 2000 population. Together, these two causes accounted for almost 50 percent of all Kansas resident deaths. ([Table 47](#))

Deaths (Cont.)

Heart disease reached a high of 393.4 deaths per 100,000 population in 1973 and gradually declined to 219.4 deaths per 100,000 population in 2004. Conversely, cancer rates steadily increased from 140.6 to 207.1 deaths per 100,000 population from 1956 to 1996, but have declined since 1996, to 193.1 in 2004. ([Figure 33](#))

In 2004, Kansans died from cerebrovascular disease at slightly more than half the rate of forty years ago, with the death rates for this disease going from 116.7 in 1965 to 58.5 in 2004. The death rate for unintentional injury also declined, going from 61.3 in 1965 to 42.3 in 2004, a 31.0 percent decrease. ([Figure 33](#))

In 2004, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death for Kansas residents 1-44 years of age. ([Figure 34](#))

In 2004, cancer of the respiratory and intrathoracic organs, digestive organs and breast were the leading causes of cancer deaths in women. ([Table 49](#))

The dominant occupations for deaths due to suicides and homicides were operators, fabricators and laborers. ([Table 53](#))

Mortality in Kansas was responsible for 196,379 years of potential life lost in 2004 (See Technical Notes pg. 144). Cancer was the second leading cause of death in Kansas, but accounted for the most years of potential life lost (42,758). Unintentional injuries represented nearly two times the years of potential life lost among men (19,424 years) compared to women (10,670 years). ([Table 55](#), [Figure 35](#))